



Consular Newsletter
Consulate General of the United States
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

May-June 2011

Upcoming Elections and Voter Information

The following States will hold Primary Elections during the months of June, July and August, 2011 on the dates indicated.

<i>June</i> Alabama – June 1 Mississippi – June 1 New Mexico – June 1 California – June 8 Iowa – June 8 Maine – June 8 Montana – June 8 Nevada – June 8 New Jersey – June 8 North Dakota – June 8 South Carolina – June 8 South Dakota – June 8 Virginia – June 8 Utah – June 22	<i>August</i> Kansas – August 3 Michigan – August 3 Missouri – August 3 Tennessee – August 5 Colorado – August 10 Connecticut – August 10 Minnesota – August 10 Washington – August 17 Wyoming – August 17 Alaska – August 24 Arizona – August 24 Florida – August 24 Vermont – August 24 Louisiana – 1st Party Congressional – August 28
<i>July</i> Georgia – July 20 Oklahoma – July 27	

All citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these States and have not yet submitted a registration and ballot request (FPCA) for the 2011 calendar year, should do so as soon as possible. The FPCA ballot application and instructions for the above States are available at www.fvap.gov/FPCA. Click on your State on the map and follow the instructions to register and request an absentee ballot. Some States allow submitting the FPCA by fax or email in addition to regular mail. Send your **FPCA NOW** to your election office to ensure you have enough time to receive, vote, and return the ballot!

Travel Tips

As we begin the summer travel season, we'd like to offer the following suggestions to help make your trip a pleasant one.

Passports: Check those expiration dates now and allow time for passport processing! Don't wait until you are packing your suitcases to look! Remember that children's passports expire after five years, while adult passports expire after ten years. Child and parents must appear in person to renew a child's passport. See our website <http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov/service/passports2.html> for specific details. Expedited processing time is approximately two weeks.

Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative Passport Requirements			
Returning to the U.S. From	Type of Travel		Document Required
Any International Location		Air Commercial airplane, private airplane, etc.	U.S. Passport Book
Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the <u>Caribbean Region</u>		Land Car, bus, train, by foot, etc.	U.S. Passport Book or Card
Canada, Mexico, Bermuda or the <u>Caribbean Region</u>		Sea Commercial cruise line, private boat, etc	U.S. Passport Book or Card
A U.S. Territory		Air, Land or Sea	Valid Photo ID

Before you travel, learn the entry requirements of the foreign country to which you are traveling and other country-specific information at http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html.

<http://Travel.State.gov>: The Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs has improved its website <http://travel.state.gov> for the general public to offer more user-friendly and valuable information on travel, passports, visas, children's and family issues, law and policy. It's worth taking a few minutes to check out! And, don't forget to register (or update your registration information) at the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

U.S. Visa Waiver and U.S. Visas: For those foreign nationals who are citizens of countries in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, there is an Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) requirement. The ESTA registration is done online and is free of charge. To find out if your non-U.S. Citizen family members, or friends are eligible to travel visa free to the U.S. please consult http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html. For those other citizens requiring a U.S. visa, all applicants in Saudi Arabia must make an appointment on line for an interview at <https://ksa.us-visaservices.com>. Jeddah offers limited visa appointments, and some travelers may need to apply for their visas in Riyadh. Visa processing may take several weeks so all visa applicants apply well in advance of the proposed US trip to avoid delays and disappointments! All applicants must complete the visa application form DS160 on line. For more information about the visa application process visit our website at: <http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov/visas/non-immigrant-visas/appointments.html>.

U.S. Income Tax Deadline -- reminder

Tax deadline for overseas filers: U.S. citizens and residents are automatically granted a two-month extension to June 15, 2011 to file a tax return. Any tax due though must have been paid by April 18, 2011 (or earlier if you are subject to estimated tax) in order to avoid penalties and interest. Downloadable forms and other useful information concerning tax preparation and laws are available at the Internal Revenue Service's website at www.irs.gov.

The Internal Revenue Service regional office is located at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, France.

Phone: + 33 (0)1 43 12 25 55
Monday- Friday, 9:00 am-12:00 pm & 1:30 pm- 3:30 pm
(Closed French and American holidays)
Fax: + 33 (0)1 43 12 23 03
Email: irs.paris@irs.gov
Mail: U.S. Embassy - Internal Revenue Service
2, Avenue Gabriel, Room B-110
75382 Paris Cedex 08
France

Tax assistance can also be obtained by contacting the main International Customer Service Center in Philadelphia.

Phone: + 1 (215) 516-2000
6:00 am - 11:00 pm Eastern Standard Time
Fax: + 1 (215) 516-2555
Email: www.irs.gov/help/page/0,,id=133197,00.html

Suspicious E-mails -- If you believe you have received **a suspicious email** that professes to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), please read the information on IRS website "How to Report and Identify Phishing, E-mail Scams and IRS Bogus Web Sites" at <http://www.irs.gov/privacy/article/0,,id=179820,00.html?portlet=1> before replying.

Internet Scams

We receive inquiries every day from people who have been defrauded for hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars by Internet contacts they thought were their friends or loved ones. Internet scams are attempts by con artists to convince you to send them money. These fraudulent schemes can include lotteries, on-line dating services, inheritance notices, work permits/job offers, bank overpayments, or even make it appear that you are helping a friend in trouble.

Do NOT believe that you have won a lottery you never entered or inherited money from someone you've never met or heard of. Do NOT believe any offers (lottery, inheritance, etc.) that require a fee to be paid up front. Do NOT provide personal or financial information to businesses you don't know or haven't verified.

In many cases, scammers troll the Internet for victims, and spend weeks or months building a relationship. Once they have gained their victim's trust, the scammers create a false situation and ask for money. Scammers can be very clever and deceptive, creating sad and believable stories that will make you want to send them money.

Before you send funds, check to see if you recognize any of the following signs, and realize that you may be a potential victim of a scam:

- You only know your friend or fiancé online and may never have met in person. In some cases, the victim has even believed he or she has married the scammer by proxy.
- Photographs of the scammer show a very attractive person, and appear to have been taken at a professional modeling agency or photo studio. If they provide you with a copy of their passport or visa, you can always contact the U.S. embassy in the country where the passport or visa was issued to verify the validity of the document.
- The scammer's luck is incredibly bad – he/she is in a car crash, or arrested, or mugged, or beaten, or hospitalized. Close family members are dead or unable to assist. Sometimes, the scammer claims to have a young child overseas who is ill or hospitalized.
- You have sent money for visas or plane tickets but they can't seem to make it to their destinations, citing detention by immigration officials, or other reasons that prevent them from traveling.
- Beware of anyone who requests funds for a BTA, or Basic Travel Allowance, as a requirement to depart another country for the United States. There is no such thing as a BTA. In other cases, your Internet friend will claim to need a travel allowance, or travel money, to be able to travel to the United States. Again, there is no such requirement under U.S. law.
- The scammer claims to have been born and raised in the United States, but uses poor grammar and spelling indicative of a non-native English speaker.
- Although the scammer may claim to be in the United Kingdom, he or she may ask that the money be sent to an account in another country. Alternatively, the scammer may state he or she is in a third country but request that funds be sent to the United Kingdom.
- The scammer may even claim to be contacting you from a U.S. Embassy, where your partner, business associate, or friend is being detained pending payment of some type of fee. U.S. embassies do NOT detain people.

Internet scammers are using social networking sites to find victims. The scammers obtain a person's login information, change his/her profile to make it appear as if the person is in trouble, then contact the person's friends via those websites asking them to send money to help. To avoid falling victim to such a scam, always be suspicious of anyone asking for money through the Internet, including via social networking sites, and always verify a supposed friend's circumstances by speaking to him or her directly. ALWAYS protect your online identity by securing your logins and passwords.

Adoption scams are becoming increasingly common. The perpetrators of child adoption fraud often claim to be indigent parents unable to care for a child or members of the clergy working at an orphanage seeking a good home for a child. Americans should be very cautious about sending money or traveling abroad to adopt a child from an orphanage they have only heard about through e-mails. A new twist in the conventional email adoption scam has appeared recently, and this one occurs after the victim discovers that he or she has been fooled by a scam. Once the victim suspects fraud and breaks off communications with the scammers, a new email message will arrive claiming to be from a police agency. These fictitious policemen will offer to recover the victim's lost money. The scammers will then ask for a "refundable" fee to open the investigation or court files.

All of these scams have one thing in common – they contain requests for money. Sometimes you are asked to pay money to obtain something of value for yourself (e.g. a prize, a romantic relationship, more money); or you are asked to pay money to help a friend in trouble. In every case, however, the ultimate indicator of a scam is that you are always asked to give money.

Con artists can be very creative and very determined. Be skeptical. Do not send anyone money unless you are certain that it is a legitimate request – even if you think you know the person well based on your Internet correspondence. You are unlikely to be able to recover money lost in such scams. For more information, please see the Department of State's brochure at http://travel.state.gov/pdf/international_financial_scams_brochure.pdf.

If you believe you are the victim of an Internet scam:

1. Do not send money. Unfortunately, any money that you might already have sent will probably not be recoverable.
2. End all communication with the scammer immediately, rather than attempt resolution directly. If you feel threatened, contact your local police at once. Do NOT attempt to personally recover the funds lost. Contact the appropriate authorities to resolve the matter
3. Report the matter immediately to The Internet Crime Complaint Center, a partnership among the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BIA), at www.ic3.gov.
4. If the scam originated through a particular website, notify the administrators of that website.

Visit the notice about the Visa Lottery Scams on our website at: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/dvscam.html>

THE 2012 DIVERSITY VISA PROGRAM – Important Notice from the Department of State

Quote: The results of the selection process for the 2012 Diversity Visa (DV-2012) program have been voided. Results previously available via the Entry Status Check (ESC) function on the Department of State website, dvlottery.state.gov, were posted in error and are now invalid. The results were not valid because, owing to a computer error, they did not represent a fair, random selection of entrants, as required by U.S. law.

This means that we have rescinded all notices informing entrants that they had been selected for further processing in DV-2012; if you received such a notice via ESC on dvlottery.state.gov, it is no longer valid.

A new random selection process will be conducted based on the original entries for the DV-2012 program. If you submitted a qualified entry from October 5, 2010, to November 3, 2010, you do not need to reapply. Your entry will be included in the new random selection. Your confirmation number, which is required to determine the status of your entry, remains the same. We are not accepting new entries for the DV-2012 program.

We expect the results of the new random selection process to be available by July 15, 2011, via the ESC function on dvlottery.state.gov.

We regret any inconvenience this might have caused. End Quote.

Recent Travel Warnings/Public Announcements:

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Saudi Arabia Country Information Sheet – updated April 12, 2011 –
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1012.html

Travel Warning – Saudi Arabia – issued December 23, 2010 –
http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_932.html

Worldwide Travel Alert – issued May 1, 2011 –
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_5447.html

Upcoming Consulate Holiday Closures:

Saturday, May 28 – U.S. Memorial Day
Monday, July 4 – U.S. Independence Day

Useful Contacts/Links:

U.S. Consulate Jeddah: <http://jeddah.usconsulate.gov/>

American Citizens Services, Jeddah: email- JeddahACS@state.gov

Warden Messages: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service/advisories-for-americans-in-ksa/warden-messages.html>

Registration: <https://travelregistration.state.gov>

Useful Information: <http://travel.state.gov>

U.S. Consulate Jeddah

American Citizens Services Section

Public Service Hours: Sat/Mon/Tues/Wed – 1-3 pm (except US and Saudi holidays)

Tele: 966/2/667-0080, ext. 4610

Fax: 966/2/669-3078 or 3098

*After hours **Emergency:** 966/2/667-0080 ext. 0*